to advise on pesticides residues in food under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules, 1955. The Commitee has fixed pesticides residues tolerance limits against 31 pesticides in different food Commodities which have been notified by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Any food commodity carrying residues in excess to the prescribed tolerance limits, can be confiscated and its owner can be punished as per rules.

(c) The Programme Advisory Group for the Department of Science & Technology Plan scheme "Consumer Protection through Science & Technology", in November, 1986, had constituted a Working Sub-Group on Pesticide Residues in Food. The Group's terms of Reference are to prepare a Status Report on Pesticide Residues in Food and to suggest action points. The Group is composed of its Specialists including those from the consumer interest groups. The sub-group has prepared the draft report. The Programme Advisory Group has yet to examine the report for making suitable recommendations to the Government. Follow up action can be taken only after final decision on the report.

Recognition to International Organisation of Consumer Unions

2361. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Organisation of Consumer Unions, Hague and Penang are recognised by Government and if not, whether necessary recognition is likely to be accorded as it has done pioneering work all over the world;

(b) whether Government are aware that International Organisation of Consumer Unions has guidelines for recognition of national consumer organisation and if so, whether these would be applied for recognition of consumer Unions in the country; and

(c) whether only those consumer organisation in India who are fully affiliated/recognised by International Organisation of Consumer Unions will be represented on various boards etc. to be set up under Consumer Protection Act, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to recognise any consumer organisation under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Voluntary Consumer Organisation

2362. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are over 230 registered voluntary consumer organisations in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many of these are non-functional;

(c) whether Government are aware that due to rigid rules for registration of societies and delays and labour involved many good parties feel discouraged to organise voluntary consumer organisations; and

(d) whether Government propose to simplify the existing procedures and rules and also recognise such organisations for 5 years after due verification on *ad hoc* basis in order to enable them to organise themselves effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The Central Government has compiled a list of over 240 voluntary consumer organisations which are spread over in various States and UTs. A number of these organisations are engaged in furtherance of the cause of the consumers. Under the Consumer Protection Act, any consumer or any voluntary consumer association registered under